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Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/59/485, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 27th and 37th meetings, on 5 November and 3 December. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.27 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.21 and A/C.2/59/L.54

2. At the 27th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/59/L.21), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* the relevant provisions on international migration contained in the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recalling also the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo, in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration,

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"*Recalling also* its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/190 of 22 December 2003 and 58/208 of 23 December 2003, in which it decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session with the aim of identifying appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits of international migration and minimizing its negative impacts,

"*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recognizing* the important contributions that regional efforts can provide to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development,

"*Noting* the existing efforts in the United Nations system in the coordination of activities on international migration and the exchange of information on the subject,

"*Welcoming* the fact that the special theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2006 will be international migration and development,

"*Recalling* that the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration remains unresolved,

"*Acknowledging* the important contribution provided by migrant flows to development, and aware of the increasing importance that countries of origin, transit and destination attach to international migration,

"*Noting* the rights of all migrants and their obligation to respect national legislation, including legislation on migration,

"*Aware* that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, due in part to the uneven impact of the benefits of globalization and liberalization, have contributed to large flows of people between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

"*Stressing* the crucial importance of international cooperation by countries of origin, transit and destination to optimize the developmental impact of migration globally and in realizing the benefits that international migration can bring to migrants, their families, the receiving societies and their communities of origin, and to ensure that migrant workers are not subjected to exploitative conditions of employment,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Decides* that the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, due to be convened during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, will take place over the course of not less than two days, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General

Assembly at its sixtieth session on organizational details of the high-level dialogue proposals for the preparatory activities, which may include holding panel discussions, dialogues with experts and intergovernmental consultations;

"3. *Invites* all Member States and observer States participating in the high-level dialogue to be represented at the ministerial level, and urges the participation of the heads of United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations;

"4. *Requests* all regional commissions to promote intergovernmental consultations on this matter in order to submit their results as a contribution to the high-level dialogue;

"5. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the high-level dialogue;

"6. *Stresses* the need to develop further the institutional framework in the United Nations system to improve the management of international migration, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this issue for consideration by the high-level dialogue;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue considering the issue of convening an international conference on migration and to report on this issue for consideration by the high-level dialogue;

"8. *Notes* the adoption by the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization at its ninety-second session of the resolution concerning a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy, which calls for the development of a non-binding multilateral framework for migrant workers in a global economy, to be considered by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization in November 2005;

"9. *Notes also* the establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration and the efforts of the Commission to propose a framework for the formulation of a coherent, comprehensive and global response to international migration, and that the final report of the Commission will be submitted to the Secretary-General in the summer of 2005;

"10. *Calls upon* all Member States to promote and protect the rights of all migrants, and invites those Member States that have not already done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

"11. *Reaffirms* the need to address the problems of refugees and persons who have been displaced arising from forced migration, including their right to repatriation, which should be settled in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant United Nations resolutions;

"12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to commission a study on the contributions made by migrants to the economic and social development of countries of origin, transit and destination, including an analysis of the impact

of brain drain on the development of developing countries, to be presented before the high-level dialogue;

"13. *Emphasizes* the need to consider means of facilitating the movement of persons in accordance with obligations undertaken in relevant international agreements;

"14. *Reaffirms* the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of the transfer of migrant remittances to developing countries;

"15. *Decides* to include the item entitled 'International migration and development' in the agenda of the General Assembly on an annual basis, beginning with its sixtieth session;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 3 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Antonio Bernardini (Italy), introduced and orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.54, which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out an oral statement of programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.54, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,[1] in particular chapter X on international migration and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration of Social Development,[2] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] the Platform for Action adopted by the fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the outcome documents of the twenty-fourth[5] and twenty-fifth[6] special sessions of the General Assembly,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/190 of 22 December 2003 and 58/208 of 23 December 2003, in which it decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session, bearing in mind that the purpose of the high-level dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[7] and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [10]

Noting the work undertaken under the International Migration Policy Programme by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the International Labour Office, the Office of the United Nations

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[6] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[7] Resolution 217 A (III).

[8] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[9] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[10] Resolution 44/25, annex.

High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions, with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments to manage migration flows at the national and regional levels and thus foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

Noting also the ongoing efforts and recent activities within the United Nations system and the other intergovernmental activities and multilateral initiatives on international migration and development being undertaken, as well as the exchanges of information on the subject,

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[11] which entered into force in July 2003,

Welcoming the adoption of the special theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2006, which will be "International migration and development",[12]

Taking note of the views of the Member States on the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda, noting the low number of respondents to the survey of the Secretariat, and in this context inviting the Secretary-General to continue considering the issue,

Acknowledging the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

Aware of the fact that all countries are impacted by international migration, and hence stressing the crucial importance of dialogue and cooperation so as to better understand the international migration phenomenon, including its gender perspective, and to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

Realizing the benefits that international migration can bring to migrants, their families, the receiving societies and their communities of origin and the need for countries of origin, transit and destination to ensure that migrants, including migrant workers, are not subject to exploitation of any kind and the need to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families, in particular of women migrant workers, are respected and protected,

Noting that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide a context for the effective integration of migrants, preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in receiving societies,

Aware that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, due in part to the uneven impact of the benefits of globalization and liberalization, have contributed to large flows of people between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

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[11] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[12] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 5* (E/2004/25), chap. I.B, decision 2004/1.

Recognizing that countries can be concurrently any combination of origin, transit and/or destination,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development;[13]

2. *Reconfirms* that the Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the 2006 high-level dialogue;

3. *Recognizes* the important contributions that international and regional efforts, including by the regional commissions, can provide to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development;

4. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the high-level dialogue;

5. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development goals and respect for all human rights;

7. *Encourages* Governments of countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination to increase cooperation on issues related to migration, and notes with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development, in particular in the context of regional cooperation;

8. *Invites* Governments, with the assistance of the international community, where appropriate, to seek to make the option of remaining in one's own country viable for all people, in particular through efforts to achieve sustainable development leading to a better economic balance between developed and developing countries;

9. *Reaffirms* the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of the transfer of migrant remittances to developing countries, and welcomes efforts of Governments and stakeholders in this regard;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[13] A/59/325.